



ST. BERNARD'S

— BACCHUS MARSH PARISH —

Parish Priest | Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount



YEAR A

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

14th December 2025

— GAUDETE SUNDAY —

Today is 'Gaudete' Sunday, which means 'Rejoice'. The name is taken from the Introit or Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice in the Lord always..." We are not far now from the joyous occasion of the birth of Our Lord. So, it would be good for us to turn our mind to the Nativity story. Open the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Imagine the scenes, and meditate on the deeper meaning of how God chose to enter this world for us. Let us ready our hearts and minds for His appearing in the manger.

— OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE —

On Friday, was the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St Juan Diego in Mexico. What resulted was the greatest mass conversion to Christ – some 9 million people in 8 years. To convince the local Bishop that she was really appearing to Juan Diego, Our Lady imprinted her image in Juan Diego's 'tilma' – which was his cloak made of cactus fibre. The image is miraculous. There is no paint or pigment on the tilma, but rather the image 'hovers' over the fibre. The tilma and the Shroud of Turin are two existent images that scientific analysis has contributed amazing information for us. Each year, over 20 million pilgrims visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a fascinating one. The Catholic Spanish arrived and conquered the land of the Aztecs a few years before. The Aztecs were a pagan people, and were known to practice human sacrifice. There was conflict and difficulty between the local indigenous and the Spanish, and the offspring of Spanish and Aztec, and conflict between the Spanish government and the Church. It is also the time of conflict in Europe – the Reformation in Europe with so many leaving the Church. Into this, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared and reminded us of the power of Christ, the Prince of Peace, when He enters this world – and enters it through His mother, Mary. Also, you might remember a couple of weeks ago I mentioned the atheist Mexican dictatorship 100 years ago. In 1921, a bomb went off in the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe – incredibly, the image survived.

I am reminded of the end of Mark's Gospel, beautifully written, "And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen" (Mk 16:20). Our Lord continues to confirm the teachings of the Church with 'signs', even in our day. We thank God for sending us His mother in times of need to strengthen our faith.

A FINAL WORD OF THANKS TO — ST VINCENT DE PAUL AND SOUL FOOD —

St Vincent de Paul

Thanks to those who volunteer for St Vincent de Paul in Bacchus Marsh. From the Parish Centre on Thursday, volunteers as well as students from St Bernard's handed out Christmas hampers to those in need. Your contributions helped make these hampers a substantial help to those in our local area.

Soul Food

This week is the Soul Food Christmas Lunch in the Parish Centre. Those coming to Soul Food continues to grow. It will soon be a year since Soul Food moved to our Parish Centre and we consider it a blessing to be able to host them. Thanks to Jenny Kearney and all those who help with this amazing work.

Rev. Fr. John Paul Mount

— SUNDAY MASSES —

Saturday	5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday	8:30am & 10:30am

OLHC, Korobeit

1 st & 3 rd Saturday	
20 th Dec & 3 rd Jan	6:30pm (Vigil)

— WEEKDAY MASSES —

Mon	no Mass
Tue, Thu, Fri	7:30am
Wed	9:30am
Sat	9:30am

During school holidays, from Tue 23rd Dec 2025, weekday Masses will be held at 9:30am.

Regular weekday Mass times will resume on Wed 28th Jan 2026.

— CONFESSION —

30 minutes prior to each Mass
& during Holy Hour

— DEVOTIONS —

Mon	3:00pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet
Tue	7:00pm	Holy Hour
Fri	24 hours	First Friday Adoration
Sun	10:00am	Rosary (Chapel)

— DIARY —

December 2025

Sun	14 th	Parish Christmas Family Day Lunch
Wed	16 th	Last day of School Term 4
Thu	18 th	Funeral – Nancy Lloyd
Sat	20 th	School holidays commence
Thu	25 th	Christmas Day (see Mass Timetable p.3)
Fri	26 th	Boxing Day Public Holiday

January 2026

Thu	1 st	New Year's Day
Sun	11 th	Baptism Preparation Session
Tue	27 th	School Teachers' Mass – 8:30am
Fri	30 th	Start of School Term 1 (all students)

— DONATE —

To support our Parish,
scan the QR code,
or contact the Parish Office
to set up recurring contributions.



ST. BERNARD'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
61 Lerderberg Street
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

PARISH OFFICE
Tuesday – Friday, 9:30am – 1:30pm
(03) 5367 2069
bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au

OUR LADY
HELP OF CHRISTIANS
309 Myrniong-Korobeit Road
Korobeit VIC 3341

— Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults. —

PARISH NEWS

WINNERS OF THE KSC MAJOR RAFFLE

- 1st prize to Evana Carragher – a tax return for two up to the value of \$500, donated by CountPro, Gell Street.
- 2nd prize to Mary Griffith – a one night midweek stay at the Melbourne Windsor valued at \$280, donated by Cartier World Travel.
- 3rd prize to Shannon Harvie – a \$120 voucher donated by Bacchus Marsh Tyre & Batteries, Grant Street.
- 4th prize to Eva – a \$100 discount off a service or repair at J.F.Motors, Park Street, Maddingley.

Thank you to our generous sponsors for their donations.

Please support our local sponsors.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAMILY DAY LUNCH

Sunday 14th December

Our annual Christmas Family Day Lunch will be celebrated after the 10:30am Mass this Sunday. All parishioners welcome.

Please bring a plate to share. Coffee, tea and soft drinks provided. Children should be on the lookout for a special visitor!

FUNERAL

The funeral for Nancy Lloyd will be held on Thursday 18th December at 11:00am in St Bernard's church, followed by burial at Maddingley Cemetery. Fr Brian Glasheen is the celebrant.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend, there will be a special collection to assist with Christmas flower arrangements in our church. Please give generously.

PARISH DONATIONS

1st Collection: Presbytery – supports our Parish Priest and priests of the Archdiocese.

2nd Collection: Church – supports our Parish.

A 'Tap & Go' device for donating to the Church account is in the Gathering Space.

Direct transfers can also be made to the Church account:

Account Name: Archdiocese of Melbourne Catholic Development Fund
St Bernard's Parish Bacchus Marsh

BSB: 083 347 Account No.: 651663131

LET US PRAY

Recently Deceased

Nancy Lloyd,
Rev Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE.

Death Anniversaries

Wendy Diacono, Marie Graham, Patrick Green,
Chaiel Jackson, Kevin Long, Damien McConnell,
Robert Taggart, Joan Younger.

The Sick

Barry Anderson, Brendan Coburn, Kathleen Dally,
Dean Elms, Robert Elms, Nola Franklin,
Frances, Caleb Silas Ginger, Karen & Astrid
Karenpaula, Hannah & Molly, Michael Johnston,
John & Patricia Kelly, Michael Larkin,
Vivian Malubay, Joanne Mumford,
Chinenye Victoria Oriaku Nwalozie,
Peter Roberts, Anthony Tabone, Carmel Welsh,
and all those who need our prayers.

COMMUNITY

Soul Food

Soul Food provides a free meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays). This community service is held in St Bernard's Parish Centre and is a free event. All are welcome. No need to book – just come along.

Bacchus Marsh

St Vincent de Paul Conference

We support people in need within our community by providing practical assistance such as food parcels, food vouchers, bill relief, clothing, furniture as well as offering person to person support.

Welfare assistance is available Monday - Friday,
10:00am - 3:00pm on 1800 305 330.

New members most welcome.

Contact Peter Kennedy on 0407 778 119.

The Neighbour's Place

The Neighbour's Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the Moorabool Shire who are disadvantaged, at risk, or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family. They offer a No Interest Loans Scheme.

77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

(03) 5367 6222 office@neighboursplace.org.au
9:30am – 12:30pm, Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Infant Baptism

Baptisms are held on the second & fourth Saturdays of the month at 11:00am. Preparation sessions are facilitated on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30am. Application forms can be downloaded from our website.

Sacraments for Children

If your child does not attend a Catholic school but would like to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation, application forms are available on our website.

Becoming Catholic

For adults wishing to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation, you can register your interest on our website or speak directly to Fr John Paul.

Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Vicki Benson
Jennifer Costin

Ron Geurts

Margaret Love
0437 247 779

Madeleine McManus
Peter Kennedy

REFLECTION

Third Sunday of Advent

Children waiting for Christmas Day find it difficult to wait patiently for that exciting morning to come, for the good things they hope to receive and the dinner during the day. For some, there may not be anything – no presents, no feast.

This Sunday calls us to be patient as we wait for the Lord's coming. How and when is the Lord coming to me? How do I recognise him? Jesus should be recognised in each of us, when we, like him, care for those who need to see, be healed, hear the Good News. Like John the Baptist we prepare for the Lord's coming – John hears only of the good things Jesus is doing. This is what draws people to believe in him.

Let us not let the busyness of these days prevent us from noticing the miracles of God's presence. The psalm says: "Look! Your God is coming to save you". Let us recognise God's presence in my own life, my family, my workplace, my neighbourhood.

Sr. Mary Fermio

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve	Wednesday	24th December
	6:00pm	Carols & Children's Pageant at St Bernard's
	6:30pm	Mass at St Bernard's
	8:00pm	Carols at OLHC, Korobeit
	8:30pm	Mass at OLHC, Korobeit
	Midnight	Mass at St Bernard's
Christmas Day	Thursday	25th December
	8:30am	Mass at St Bernard's
	10:30am	Mass at St Bernard's
Boxing Day	Friday	26th December
	9:30am	Mass at St Bernard's
New Year's Day	Thursday	1st January
	9:30am	Mass at St Bernard's

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

For the Christmas Eve carols at 6pm, before the 6:30pm Mass, we will be having a procession that leads to a nativity scene at the front of the altar. Children from the parish are welcome to participate and we also invite older children to be Readers. Each family is responsible for sourcing their children's costumes.

If you would like your child/children to participate in this procession, please provide the name/names of your child/children by contacting Loretta on 0418 575 814.

MINISTERS

20th & 21st December

Mass	Reader	Holy Communion	Piety Stall
5:00pm	Vicki Benson	John Thorne	Jan & Colm Carragher
8:30am	Meg Kennedy	Tup Shea	Jan Farmelo
10:30am	Allan McManus	Jenny Kearney	Cheryl Stevens

CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
[all bow during the next line]
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward
to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

AMEN

ST. BERNARD'S PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre is available for hire
and can be booked through our Hall
Managers – Marie & Terry Casey.
All use must be authorised by the
Parish Office.

Phone: (03) 5367 3427

Mon - Fri, 9:00am - 6:00pm

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading *Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalms 145:6-10*

R: Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *Response*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *Response*

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Response

Second Reading *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation *Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

————— NEXT SUNDAY —————
Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading	<i>Isaiah 7:10-14</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>Psalms 23:1-6</i>
Second Reading	<i>Romans 1:1-7</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>